

REMARKS

Entry of the above amendments, and early and favorable consideration on the merits are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 41-69 will be pending.

If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (301) 601-7252 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

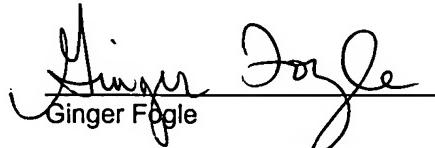
Respectfully submitted,



Craig L. Plastrik
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 41,254

HUGHES ELECTRONICS CORPORATION
Patent Docketing Administration
P.O. Box 956
Bldg. 1, Mail Stop A109
El Segundo, CA 90245-0956

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia, 22313-1450 on: July 2, 2003.



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